DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

VOL. I NO. 11 JUNE 5th 1952 Price: 15 Pf., 5 c., 3 d

A-BOMBS FOR NAZIS

A. P. Report

"West Germany will be allowed to have atomic weapons and guided missiles when West German troops join the European Army" the American news agency Associated Press reported from Bonn on May 27th.

The report implied that germ bombs too would be supplied to the former nazi generals who will command the new West German Wehrmacht.

"Because the West German Republic has a long border along the Iron Curtain, strategic weapons should not be produced in that area. The weapons affected are atomic, chemical, bacteriological, long-range or guided missiles..." the Associated Press report stated.

"German troop contigents will be supplied with these weapons on exactly as favourable a basis as other contingents of the European Defence Community."

Germans Reject War Treaty

Huge demonstrations, strikes, votes in local parliaments, and critical comments in newspapers of all shades of opinion showed West Germany's rejection of the "General Treaty" signed in Bonn on May 26th.

The treaty, which was signed by Chancellor Adenauer without the agreement of the West German parliament, pledges West Germany to raise a large army, and to remain occupied and partitioned for an indefinite period.

Most impressive exhibition of workers' opposition to Adenauer's policy was given in a two-day strike called by printers on May 28th, immediately after the treaty had been signed. The strike brought newspaper production to an almost complete stop. In Ruhr mines and factories throughout West Germany short term protest strikes were called.

Trade Union Opposition Strong

The storm of protest was marked by hard-hitting speeches by trade union and Social Democratic leaders. Social Democratic leader Kurt Schumacher stated "Anyone who votes for the Bonn Treaty does not deserve the name of German".

Ruhr trade union chief Werner Hansen, addressing a crowd of nearly 100,000 demonstrators, stated "Be prepared to fight, so that Germany shall never again become a concentration camp, a prison or a cemetery".

In Bremen, American zone, the local parliament passed, by 56 votes to 22, a resolution protesting against Adenauer's signature of the war pact. In the face of public protest only 22 of the members of Adenauer's own party dared to oppose the motion, the others demonstratively leaving the parliament before the vote was taken.

Pastor Martin Niemoeller, Protestant leader, described the Bonn Treaty as a "western slamming of the door" in the face of repeated peace feelers put out by the east.

Dr Joseph Wirth, pre-Hitler Chancellor of Germany, speaking at a great demonstration in Düsseldorf, British Zone, stated:

"Adenauer's Bonn Treaty has taken us further than ever from our goal of German unity. We must devote all our efforts to bringing the occupation powers together so that they can conclude a real peace treaty with Germany.

One of Adenauer's close collaborators, Dr Sigurd Paulsen, editor of the "Diplomatische Korrespondenz" appearing in Bonn, announced on May 30th that he could no longer

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YOUTH READY TO DEFEND E. GERMANY

President Pieck's Message

"I am proud of the determination to defend the German Democratic Republic shown by members of the Free German Youth", stated East German President Wilhelm Pieck in a message of greetings to the Fourth Congress of the Free German Youth in Leipzig at Whitsun.

"The onslaughts made by the enemies of democracy and peace cannot be adequately answered simply through lip-service to peaceful construction.

"We must never again allow a situation to arise in Germany in which the best fighters for peace can be slaughtered by reactionary militarists and fascists without being able to defend themselves.

"For this reason the Free German Youth must help to strengthen our People's Police and the State Security Service in their fight against hostile agents and saboteurs.

"We have always been enemies of Prussian-German militarism, but we give our full support to the armed defence of our democratic achievements and the German Democratic Republic.

"In the factories and fields, in the schools and universities, in the laboratories and offices the members of the Free German Youth have shown what a splendid job they can do for peaceful construction. I am convinced that they will also do a fine job in the armed defence of our German Democratic Republic."

14,000 demonstrate in West Berlin

Huge crowds of West Berliners, despite brutal police bludgeoning, demonstrated in the Neukoelln district of West Berlin on May 29th against the Bonn treaty and in favour of a real peace treaty.

West Berlin police estimated the crowd of demonstrators at over 14,000, and arrested nearly 300 of them.

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work for the West German government, since his study of the exact vording of the Bonn Treaty had convinced him of its anti-national character.

The liberal newspaper "Aachener Nachrichten", in a very critical article on the Bonn Treaty stated:

"When the negotiations began we heard fine phrases about full equality, sovereignty and the restoration of German unity. Now we have got the treaty and we find that it is nothing more nor less than a military pact."

"We had been promised that the treaty would bring the occupation to an end: we find that all that has happened is that we shall in future be allowed to participate in the occupation of our own country."

"If parliament should ratify this treaty, then that part of Europe which was left standing in 1945 will soon be destroyed."

The "Nuernberger Nachrichten" stated in a leading article:

"Ratification of the treaty would mean that Germany would be partitioned for an indefinite period; that the split through Germany would be deeper than ever before; and that the shadow of civil war would rot our entire political, social and economic life."

East German Government Calls for Struggle against Bonn Treaty

"At this decisive hour the government of the German Democratic Republic calls upon all German patriots in east and west to devote all their energy to saving the nation" stated an official appeal issued on May 30th, four days after West German chancellor Adenauer had signed the Bonn Treaty.

"All methods of the most intensive national resistance must be used to prevent the ratification of the treaty by the Bonn parliament." No German must allow himself to share in the guilt of this crime, and Adenauer's government of treason must go!

"At the same time the government of the German Democratic Republic calls upon the population of the Republic to close its ranks round the government and support all measures taken to protect the Republic, which was, is, and will remain the firm foundation for the struggle of the German people for peace and unity."

WHY GERMANS REJECT BONN TREATY

Terms of Bonn Treaty and subsidiary agreements	*Draft Peace Treaty proposed by Soviet Union*
a) Method of Conclusion:	
West German Chancellor signs the Bonn Treaty and subsidiary military agreements with Acheson, Eden and Schuman without even informing the Bonn Parliament of the terms. West Germany is not proposed for United Nations membership.	An all-German government and all countries which participated in the war against Germany will take part in the peace conference. After the Peace Treaty has come into force Germany will enter the United Nations.
b) Occupation:	
Occupation to continue for indeterminate period. Foreign troops have unlimited use of West German territory. Article 5 of the Bonn Treaty lays down that orders can be given at any time for foreign troops to go into action "to maintain or restore order."	"All armed forces of the occupation powers must be withdrawn from Germany at the latest one year after a peace treaty with Germany comes into force. At the same time all foreign military bases on German territory will be liquidated."
c) Military Clauses:	
Mercenary forces including 458,000 infantry, 25,000 naval personnel and an air force of unspecified size under the command of former Hitler generals and the supreme command of an American general. Arms production including all sizes of tanks and artillery to go ahead at full blast.	"Germany will be allowed to possess its own national armed forces necessary for the defence of the country. Germany will be allowed to produce war material and equipment in quantities not exceeding those needed by the armed forces laid down for Germany in the peace treaty. "Germany guarantees to enter into no coalition or military alliance directed against any state whose armed forces took part in the war against Germany."
d) Organisations:	
Democratic organisations such as the Free German Youth and the Victims of Nazism already banned, and ban pending on the Communist Party. Old Soldier's organisations, neo-fascist leagues allowed full freedom of action.	"Democratic parties and organisations . . . must be guaranteed freedom of activity . . . Organisations opposed to democracy and the cause of the maintenance of peace will not be allowed to exist on German territory."
e) Trade:	
Prohibition of trade with East Germany and with the Soviet Union and East Europe. Forced imports of manufactured goods and exports of raw materials.	"No limitations will be placed upon the development of Germany's peace economy, which should serve to increase the prosperity of the German people. No limitations will be imposed on trade with other countries, on merchant shipping, and on entry to the world market."
f) Sovereignty:	
Germany remains partitioned. All laws, orders and regulations issued by the High Commissioners remain in force. The West German Republic renounces "certain sovereign rights." No limits are placed on the "Defence Contribution" which could mean sending German mercenaries to any part of the world.	"Germany will be restored as a united state. This . . . will give united Germany the opportunity to develop as an independent, democratic, peace loving state. The German people must be guaranteed democratic rights so that all persons subject to German law, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion shall enjoy the human rights and fundamental freedoms."

(All direct quotations in this column are taken from the text of the Soviet Note of March 10th 1952 proposing a peace treaty with Germany.)

HELP TEAR UP BONN TREATY!

by the Editor

What do the four hundred pages of the Bonn Treaty, just signed by West German Chancellor Adenauer and Acheson, Eden and Schuman really mean?

The treaty means a new West German army, commanded by old nazi generals, equipped with all weapons up to and including horror weapons like germ bombs, a-bombs and napalm.

The treaty means that West Germany, with the largest population, will rapidly become the dominant military power in western Europe.

The treaty means that Krupp and the other cannon kings of the Ruhr will be able to get back into full production, turning out tanks and guns.

The treaty means that the West German government has bound itself not to attempt to reach a peaceful agreement with East Germany to reunite the country.

The treaty means that nazis and reactionaries in West Germany will be encouraged to whip up a campaign against East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

The treaty means that if such a campaign leads to war, all members of the Atlantic Pact are bound to join in.

To come into force, the Bonn Treaty must be ratified by the parliaments of the countries concerned. If the treaty is ratified, that will bring World War III appallingly near.

GERMAN REPORT this week brings you news of the opposition to ratification inside Germany itself. In Britain hundreds of leading members of the Labour Party have already shown their opposition. In France the position is the same, and friends of peace in the United States are campaigning against the treaty.

Every reader must help to strengthen this opposition. Sit down today, now, and write to your member of parliament or your senator. Join together with your friends in your union branch to pass a resolution of protest. But act now. Tomorrow those nazi bombers may be out, with their loads of napalm.

Military Map Mystery

Crates full of military maps of East Germany have recently been delivered to the "Blank Office", the camouflaged War Department of the West German government, according to reports from Bremerhaven, American Zone.

The deliveries came to light when a crate broke while being unloaded from an American vessel in Bremerhaven harbour. Dockers found that the maps, on the scale of 1 : 25,000, were based on old German military maps of the area, but had been brought up to date, obviously with the aid of recent U. S. air photographs.

Adenauer plans new concentration camps

The West German government plans to establish special camps where certain categories of persons may be held in custody without being brought before a judge, the official "Bulletin" of the West German government reported.

The announcement claimed that such camps would be used only for such categories as drug addicts and the mentally afflicted.

The Munich newspaper "Deutsche Woche", commenting on the announcement, stated:

"The categories of persons affected could be extended at any time by a simple administrative order. It should be recalled that the camp at Emsland has been made ready for new occupants. The draft prepared by the West German government is obviously intended to deal with the workers after the ratification of the Bonn Treaty."

German Protestant Leaders Urge Unity

"Europe will never be at peace as long as the division of Germany continues" stated Bishop Otto Dibelius, head of the German Protestant Church, in an article in Die Kirche, the church organ.

"It is a bad excuse to say that one does not want negotiations if one is not sure of success. Only discussions themselves will show whether success can be achieved.

"According to God's will there should be no wars at all, and if Germans shoot at Germans that would be an unparalleled crime. We shall never cease to tell the politicians that they owe the people reunification. Unity must not come out of a war, but by talks between both sides and an agreement."

At a press conference in Berlin Dr Reinhold von Thadden, Chairman of the German Evangelical Church Congress, told journalists that when the Protestant Church called for German unity the voice raised was not the voice of a handful of theologians but the voice of millions of Protestants all over the country.

More than 20,000 Protestants from the German Democratic Republic would travel to Stuttgart, American Zone, at the end of August to attend the Evangelical Congress there, Dr von Thadden announced.

Four Christian peace groups in West Berlin have sent telegrams to the East German People's Chamber and the West German parliament appealing for last minute efforts to halt rearmament.

"We call with all earnestness for a halt to the rearmament of the divided German people" the appeal said.

"We know that such rearmament will bring a bloody war dangerously near."

The appeal was signed by leaders of the Society of Friends, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Mennonites and the Christian Peace Service.

East and West Germans to meet in Paris

Representatives from both East and West Germany will meet in Paris with prominent friends of peace from many European countries on June 13th for a conference on the German problem.

West Germany will be represented by Pastor Martin Niemoeller and Dr Sigmund Schultze, of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. East Germany's representatives will include Stefan Hermlin, brilliant young author.

The British delegation to the conference will include pacifists like Vera Brittain and non-pacifists such as Sidney Silverman, MP, and Colonel Basil Davidson.

A manifesto issued by the preparatory committee stated:

"The time has come for the peoples of Europe to save peace by preventing, by their actions, the rearmament of Germany, and by demanding that negotiations be held between the governments concerned."

West Berlin Harbours Terror Groups

Details of various organisations in West Berlin which concentrate upon sabotage and spying in East Germany have been released by the Ministry of State Security of the German Democratic Republic. Some of the main organisations are:

VPO. This organisation, which takes its name from the initials of "Vereinigung politischer Ostfluechtlinge" (Association of Political Refugees from the East) was established in autumn 1949 on the orders of Jakob Kaiser, West German Minister for All-German Questions. From its offices in 81 Hohenzollerndamm in the British Sector of West Berlin its chief officers, Werner Jehren and Otto Kinzel, recruit men and women whom they can send into East Germany to carry out espionage and sabotage. They recruit agents mainly from amongst petty criminals or misguided persons who have fled to West Berlin from East Germany.

The Association of Freedom-loving Jurists. This organisation, founded at about the same time as the VPO, is headed by a lawyer named Horst Erdmann, who uses the alias Theo Friedenau. He has been for many years a paid agent of the American Secret Service, the Ministry of State Security stated.

The "Freedom-loving Jurists" recruit mainly former nazis and Gestapo agents to serve as spies and agents in East Germany. Leading officials of the organisation include such figures as the former S. S. officer Hermann Mirbt, alias Marburg. One of the espionage methods developed by this agency is to send letters to engineers, lawyers and doctors in East Germany, warning them that they are allegedly in danger of arrest and advising them to take refuge in West Berlin. Persons who fall into the trap are then blackmailed into returning to the German Democratic Republic to act as spies.

(The glossy-paper "New Yorker" of September 8th 1951, reporting on the activities of the Freedom-Loving Jurists stated: . . . "they have more than three thousand fieldworkers who carry messages and perform all the tough, dirty anonymous chores that daily resistance against a powerful enemy requires. Messages and reports are sent by hand in code to the Berlin headquarters. The staff members are paid from funds the Committee gets from the government of West Berlin and from the Ministry of All-German Affairs in Bonn.")

The Fighting Group Against Inhumanity. This is one of the oldest of the sabotage groups, and has a bloody record of terrorism behind it. It was founded in 1948 by Rainer Hildebrandt, American agent, adventurer and morphinist, and is run at present by a man named Ernst Tillich. Members of the group arrested by the State Security service of the German Democratic Republic have testified in open court that they were warned that they would be killed if they refused to carry out orders or attempted to leave the organisation.

(On May 19th 1952 the "New York Times" described the group in these words: ". . . a militant anti-Communist group with headquarters in the United States sector of Berlin. The organisation's leaders say it is supported largely by the Ford Foundation in the United States, which has made a grant to it, and that it receives some money from the West Berlin administration. . . The organisation trains East Germans in resistance technique.")

Information Bureau West. This organisation is headed by Helmut Bohlmann, war criminal and former member of the nazi secret service. Main task of the "Information Bureau" is the coordination of action by the various other organisations. At present Bohlmann receives his instructions for sabotage and espionage, and his financial support, from two members of the American Counter Intelligence Corps named Riedel and Schaller.

TRAIN WRECKER TO DIE

Did Fords Finance Murder Gang?

The Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic passed sentence of death on May 24th on the leader of a gang of saboteurs who had tried to blow up the Berlin—Moscow express and committed numerous other acts of sabotage and espionage.

Six other members of the gang received long sentences. They were members of an organisation financed, according to the "New York Times", by the American "Ford Foundation".

The seven defendants were found guilty of the following crimes against the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic and against Allied Control Council Directive No. 38:

1. Placing explosives on the Erkner railway bridge with the intention of causing a great rail catastrophe likely to kill hundsreds of people.
2. Preparing armed attacks upon People's Police posts.
3. Carrying out attacks on the participants in the World Youth Festival in Berlin with explosives, firebombs and special tire-puncturing instruments.
4. Extensive military and economic espionage in the service of the western powers.
5. Active propaganda for war against the German Democratic Republic, the People's Democracies and the Soviet Union.

Evidence was given, both by the accused and by other witnesses, that the group had been organised by Johann Burianek, an old militarist, who was a member of the West Berlin group calling itself "Fighting Group against Inhumanity".

Gang leader Johann Burianek, giving evidence before the court, admitted that he had personally collected the suitcase containing the explosives intended for the railway bomb from the offices of the "Fighting Group against Inhumanity" situated at 106 Kurfuerstendamm, in West Berlin. In addition to his work for the "Fighting Group" he had also worked directly for the American Intelligence, he stated. He had delivered espionage reports and collected his pay from an office in the Kaiser Wilhelm Strasse in the American Sector which was nominally the U. S. Passport and Visa Office, he said.

Hundreds of workers from Berlin factories, many of whom had worked side by side with the saboteurs in the nationally-owned "Secura" watch and clock factory where they were employed, attended the trial and heard the details of the various crimes planned and carried out.

The sentences passed were:
Johann Burianek: death.
Emil Moebis and Fritz Henschel: life imprisonment.
Lydia Schirrwagen, fifteen years.
Otto Kranz and Renate Koenig, twelve years.
Hermann Hovestaedt, ten years.

Police alertness saves train

The alertness of two People's Policemen who detected and de-fused a bomb laid on a bridge on the railway line between Erfurt and Weimar, in East Germany, on May 24th, prevented a serious accident.

East Germany Protects Frontiers

Strict measures to protect the German Democratic Republic against both frontier incidents and against the infiltration of spies and agents came into force at the end of May.

The government declaration on these new measures, which swiftly followed the signature of the Bonn Treaty by Adenauer, stressed that they could be lifted immediately understanding was reached between East and West on the holding of free and democratic all-German elections.

The main measures were:

1. A closed frontier zone was created along the entire zonal border between West and East Germany which could be entered only by persons holding special passes. This replaced the hitherto relatively lax border control.

2. West Berliners, hitherto free to travel at will to and from all parts of East Germany, will in future have to obtain special permission. This will make it more difficult for agents from West Berlin spy and sabotage centres to enter the Republic.

In the course of carrying out these measures, a small number of persons living immediately on the frontiers both of Berlin and on the East-West frontier had to be moved away to new accomodation.

The West Berlin press, and the Anglo-American press exaggerated such removals into "mass evacuations", and did everything possible to conceal the reasons for the removals and the very limited scope of the East German measures.

The Berlin telephone system, which had worked as a unit since the end of the war, was suddenly split on May 27th by the West Berlin authorities. The East Berlin post authorities, in order to prevent the telephone system being used to relay war propaganda from the American controlled radio station in West Berlin, had made arrangements to return to manual exchange operation between East and West Berlin. Instead of cooperating in making the scheme work the West Berlin postal authorities severed without warning all telephonic communication between the two halves of the city.

Up to the date of writing the West Berlin authorities and the Western allies had taken no further provocative steps to split the city.

WHY WAS FRONTIER CLOSED?

by Secretary of State Werner Eggerath

The Bonn Separate Treaty is an open menace to our Republic and to the existence of the entire German nation.

The imperialist enemies of the German people will stop at nothing in their efforts to disorganise our peaceful work of construction. They organise sabotage and espionage groups, staffed by traitors and anti-social elements. Here are some recent samples of their work:

The "Blood-hounds", a terrorist group 15 strong, received orders to blow up a blast furnace in the Ost Foundry, and a rolling mill at Burg.

The group "Anita" was equipped by the British secret service with special acids to destroy the machinery in the Sachsen Works.

The agent Alfred Weigel was charged with the task of causing an explosion at the Warnemuende shipyards.

The agent Burianek was ordered to blow up a railway bridge at the moment when a train was passing over it.

The agent Ernst Wagner derailed two goods trucks, seriously injuring five workers.

The terrorist gangs of the agents Hoese and Metz were equipped with pistols, coshes and fire-bombs with which to attack members of democratic organisations.

The population in the vicinity of the demarcation line has had to suffer particularly from the sabotage acts and murderous attacks. Adenauer and his Minister of the Interior Lehr have constructed a closed zone some 6—10 miles deep all along the frontier. Fortifications are being constructed there, and mercenary troops armed with heavy weapons and tanks are stationed there.

From this sealed zone spies and agents are sent into the German Democratic Republic.

There has been an increase in the acts of provocation and terror both by the West German frontier guards and by occupation troops. Here are a few examples showing the serious nature of the menace:

On May 16th People's Policeman Ulrich Krohn was found shot dead at Thurow, on the frontier. His carbine and all papers had been stolen. An American car was seen near the scene of the crime.

On May 23rd two People's Policemen named Johannes Eichlepp and Wolfgang Koch, patrolling the frontier near Lockstaedt, were kidnapped after an affray in which shots were fired. Tracks all led in a westerly direction.

On May 10th two People's Policemen were shot at by members of the western frontier guard while they were well inside East German territory near Rohrshain.

On May 23rd shots were fired from a car on West German territory at a People's Police patrol near Rettigau.

There have been a number of incidents in the coastal areas also.

The list of these acts of provocation and sabotage is on the increase from day to day, and it is obvious that we must take steps to protect ourselves against such criminal acts.

WHO ARE THE CRIMINALS?

Who are the people who use the weapons of murder and arson to prevent a new and better Germany being built up in peace? Here are sketches of two recently convicted criminals.

Johann Burianek, aged 39. An adventurer, he was a keen follower of Hitler, and joined the Luftwaffe in 1939. He soon became a member of the special Hermann Goering Guard Company. Finding this too dull he volunteered for Rommel's Afrika Korps, and later for the parachute troops. On April 28th 1945, in Berlin, only three days before the city surrendered, he arrested a deserter and handed him over to the authorities. Purely by chance the man was not hanged, as most deserters were. After two months in a Soviet prisoner of war camp Burianek was released and soon found work.

Suppressing details of his past life he smuggled himself into positions of confidence, until he was finally recognised and brought to justice for his crime against humanity in 1945 in arresting the deserter. After a sentence of one years imprisonment he got work in a nationally owned factory in East Berlin and simultaneously began to work as spy and saboteur.

In February 1952, a few weeks before his arrest, he proclaimed his open allegiance to militarism by joining the West Berlin branch of the neo-nazi "Parachutist's Association."

Otto Kranz, aged 40. He was a member of the Hitler Storm Troops from 1929, and made a name for himself as a particularly brutal bully. After Hitler came to power in 1933 he became warder in a nazi jail, and later sergeant in the Wehrmacht.

After the war, acting on instructions from old nazi friends in West Berlin, he pretended to be a fervent trade unionist and actually served on the union commitee of the nationally-owned factory where he worked until he was exposed and brought to trial as a saboteur.

British plane in air-corridor incident

Major General Trussov, Soviet Deputy Chief of Staff in Germany, has protested to the British authorities against a breach of the air regulations on May 18th by a British plane.

The plane left the agreed air-corridor and flew for a considerable period outside it, Major General Trussov stated. He warned the British military authorities that they would be responsible for the consequences of any such incidents.

West Berlin Spy Group Boasts of Murder

The West Berlin spy group "Fighting Group Against Inhumanity" has publicly boasted of its support for murder and sabotage in the German Democratic Republic.

In an official statement issued on May 29th the group stated that eleven of the 42 persons sentenced to death or to long prison sentences in East Germany during May had been in contact with them.

"We believe it to be our holy duty to identify ourselves with all these men and women, even those whom we did not know, who... oppose the Soviet regime," the statement said.

The crimes of which the 42 persons were found guilty included murder, attempted murder, arson, sabotage, and incitement to race hatred.

Arrested for dollar sign

American counter-espionage agents have arrested engineering worker Georg Biberger in Munich on charges of "attacking the occupation forces."

In a mass demonstration in Munich against Adenauer's war policy Biberger is alleged to have carried a wooden cross topped by an American steel helmet decorated with the dollar sign and the slogan "That is what they want us to die for."

Foreign Books, Films for E. Germans

The East Berlin publishing house Aufbau-Verlag has just published a German translation of the American civil war novel "The Copperheads" by William J. Blake. The German version appears under the title "Maria Meinhardt".

Cinema-goers in East Germany will soon be seeing the famous French film "Clochemerle" as well as a number of Italian films including "No Peace under the Olives" as the result of a film exchange agreement concluded by DEFA, the state film corporation.

IMMEDIATE TALKS AIM OF SOVIET NOTE

"European Army not road to Peace"

The conclusion of the "General Agreement" between the western allies and the West German government means that the way has been paved for the resurrection of aggressive West German militarism, stated the Soviet government in a note addressed to the governments of Britain, the United States and France on May 25th.

The note, third Soviet note on the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany to be dispatched this year (earlier notes were sent on March 10th and April 9th), outlined the objections to a continuation of the partitioning of Germany, and stated "No one can believe that the formation of a European army can be the preparation of a 'road to peace' as is stated in the American note (of May 13th)."

The concrete proposals made in the latest Soviet note were:

"In spite of the existence of differences of opinion on the question of a peace treaty with Germany and the questions of the unification of Germany and the formation of an all-German government, the Soviet government proposes once again to the governments of the United States, Britain and France that discussions on these questions should begin, and that there should be no further delay in this matter.

"The proposal to continue the exchange of notes cannot lead to the results which would be attained by direct discussion, and would only complicate the reaching of agreement on these questions.

"The further delaying of such discussions must arouse just displeasure among the German people, in addition to which such delays are detrimental to the establishment of normal and firm relations between Germany and neighbouring states, as well as being detrimental to the strengthening of peace in general.

"The Soviet government bases its proposal upon the assumption that it and the governments of the United States, Britain and France will be guided by the Potsdam Agreement in working out a peace treaty with Germany, particularly with regard to Germany's frontiers, as already stated in the Soviet note of April 9th.

"As regards an all-German government and its rights, this government must obviously be guided also by the Potsdam Agreement. After the conclusion of a peace treaty which should serve to restore lasting peace in Europe, this government will be guided by the terms of the peace treaty.

"The Soviet government continues to hold the view that the German people have an inalienable right to their own national armed forces, which are necessary for the defence of the country, and without which the question of the powers of an all-German government cannot be justly and decently solved.

"In proposing immediate discussions on a peace treaty with Germany and the formation of an all-German government the Soviet government bases itself upon the assumption that any separate agreements concluded by one or the other part of Germany with the governments of other states will lay no obligations upon an all-German government, and that an all-German government which signs a peace treaty will have all the rights enjoyed by the government of other independent sovereign states."

West Berliners May Hold Progroms if Drunk

A West Berlin court has decided that people may be anti-Semitic if they are drunk enough.

The 59 year old former nazi Albert Kaedicke was brought before the court in Moabit, British Sector, charged with being drunk and disorderly, and with trying to incite an anti-Jewish riot.

Evidence was given that he had hammered on the door of his Jewish neighbours, all of them old women, screaming "The time has come to act against this gang of filthy Jews. I shall pour petrol over them and set them alight."

The court decided that Kaedicke had been temporarily deranged by alcohol, and quashed the charge of anti-Semitism. He was given six weeks imprisonment for being drunk and disorderly.

Trade with China

A trade agreement between the German Democratic Republic and the Chinese People's Republic was concluded in Berlin on May 28th. Under the agreement China will get machine tools, electrical and optical supplies and chemicals. The German Democratic Republic will receive non-ferrous metals, soya beans, tobacco, silk and tea.

LEIPZIG CONGRESS SHOWS YOUTH PROGRESS

Measures to defend the territory of the East German Republic from all attacks were one of the main items discussed at the Congress of the Free German Youth in Leipzig, biggest city in the German Democratic Republic, at Whitsun.

In his report to the congress Erich Honecker, its chairman, stated:

"Following the acts of provocation on the zonal frontier and the cases of sabotage the young people of our Republic have responded readily to President Pieck's declaration on the organisation of the armed defence of our homeland.

"Our congress has received many suggestions on the best way in which we can increase the ability of young people to defend peace and our homeland. We suggest that all these proposals, regarding shooting practice, gliding and flying, parachute jumping etc., should be combined in one resolution to be addressed to the government of the German Democratic Republic."

In the course of his report Erich Honecker disclosed the great part which young people under 25 are playing in the life of the East German Republic. 22 young men and women were members of parliament, two were ministers in provincial governments, and altogether more than 8000 young men and women held seats in elected local government bodies.

1400 young people were mayors of towns and villages, 6500 were school heads, and a total of 35,000 members of the Free German Youth were school teachers.

The picture was similar in industry, Erich Honecker stated. There 45,000 young people were factory heads, foremen, technicians and engineers. In the past two years 19 young people had received National Prizes (mostly for industrial development work), 8 had gained the title "Hero of Labour", 144 were "Honoured Activists", 4 were "Honoured Inventors" and more than 50,000 other young men and women workers had won lesser distinctions for their fine work.

YOUNG PEOPLE WITH GUNS

A Leipzig Report by the Editor

Imagine a huge exhibition hall fitted out with chairs and desks, and seated at the desks some four thousand earnest young men and women, most of them still in their teens. That was what I saw when I travelled to Leipzig last week to visit the Congress of the Free German Youth.

The members of the Free German Youth (generally known for short as the FDJ, from the initials of the organisation's German name) wear attractive cornflower-blue shirts, and this was the dominant colour in the hall, but in nearly every row there were one or two figures in navy blue, the uniform of the People's Police, and here and there a few white-clad members of the Sea Police.

The police were not there to watch over the assembly, however. They were delegates too, delegates from the FDJ organisations which flourish in all the units of the People's Police, as in every factory and village in the German Democratic Republic.

Since the signature of the Bonn Treaty, and the great increase in the number of attacks on the security of the East German Republic, more and more active members of the FDJ are joining the ranks of the People's Police because they feel that there they can best help to protect the schools in which their brothers and sisters are studying, and the factories which they themselves have helped to rebuild.

It was in this same spirit of earnestness that the delegates applauded as Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht appealed to them to learn to shoot, and to prepare in all possible ways to defend their homeland. These young men and women realised the necessity of the step, and accepted it as an unpleasant duty, something which had to be done.

The millionaire press has of course tried to make propaganda out of the fact that the youngsters then paraded with sporting rifles slung over their shoulders.

I watched the great demonstration through the streets of Leipzig from a stand directly opposite that occupied by a number of non-German delegates to the congress. As the first rows of blue-shirted youth with their rifles marched past, a shadow passed across the face of some of the delegates, men and women who only a few years ago had watched other armed Germans march through their towns. But it was a shadow which passed very quickly, for the young men, and the young women, sang as they marched, and their songs were a guarantee that they were no "new version of the Hitler Youth" as the monopoly press likes to pretend.

What were their songs? "Hold the Fort" for instance, the old American union song; "Bandiera Rossa", the song of Italian progressives; the "Thaelmann Column," song of the International Brigades in Spain.

Not only their songs gave the guarantee that they would never turn into Prussian columns waging aggressive war, but would use their weapons only to defend what they had built. Another guarantee was given by the sort of people whom they had just elected to lead their organisation for the next year.

The central council of the FDJ, which they had just elected, is an impressive body, almost exactly half of the members being girls. Re-elected to the post of chairman was Erich Honecker, who served ten years in nazi prisons and concentration camps for his underground work against Hitler when still just a boy.

Five of the girls on the council are tractor drivers, girls who have volunteered to work at tractor stations, sometimes in isolated parts of the country, so that the benefits of industrialisation can be brought to the farmer. Other members include tool-makers, welders, the young Minister of Education in the provincial government of Brandenburg, the student world champion in the women's 200 metre sprint, textile workers, and dozens more.

In their daily work and at their conference these young people and the three million members of the FDJ whom they represent have given active and positive proof of their determination to struggle for peace and progress. They are young people the world can trust.

Pamphlets Received

The Road to Hell by Basil Davidson. Published by the Union of Democratic Control, 32 Victoria St., London S.W. 1, England. Price 1/—.

Germany — Hope or Peril? by Gerhard Hagelberg. Published by The German American, 130 East 16th Street, New York 3, U.S.A. Price 15c.

Both these lively pamphlets review the steps to the rearmament of the nazis in West Germany which culminated in the Bonn Treaty. Regular readers of GERMAN REPORT will find both publications valuable for filling in the background of some of the up-to-date stories which they read in this paper.

A total of 316 books translated from dozens of foreign languages were published in the German Democratic Republic last year in editions totalling seven and a half million copies. More than one million of these were works by British, French and American authors.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By the time that this copy of GERMAN REPORT reaches readers I am practically certain that some western newspaper will have dragged out the moth-eaten stories of "mysterious Siberian (or Tibetan) drugs", "Asiatic hypnotists", and "unnamed tortures," to explain the very frank confessions made by the accused in some of the recent espionage and sabotage trials in East Germany.

No Secret Drugs

To see for myself I attended several sessions of the Supreme Court trial of the Burianek gang, reported elsewhere in this issue. The seven accused, including two women, did not look particularly happy sitting in the dock, but they were certainly neither drugged, hypnotized or terrorised. Several made notes during the evidence, or leaned over from the dock to consult the defence lawyers.

One after another they testified to their crimes, and told the sordid stories of how they had started by distributing "hate" leaflets and gradually, willingly or unwillingly, been dragged into the work of spying and attempted murder for which they will now pay such heavy but just penalties.

Why did they confess? My impression is that there were different personal reasons in several cases, but the overpowering reason was simply that they had no moral conviction, nothing in which they believed and which could give them a reason for keeping their mouths shut. All of them, I think, even the hard-boiled former nazis, knew that they had been doing something foul in working for a new war. When they were confronted by the overwhelming evidence against them they simply collapsed and told everything they knew.

Another Trial

They tried of course to twist and turn, to represent themselves as poor innocent tools, to argue that they had only been "acting on orders."

As I listened, with the dozens of journalists and hundreds of factory workers attending the trial, to gang-leader Johann Burianek listing coldbloodedly his crimes, planned and executed, I was irresistibly reminded of another trial which I attended just five years ago.

It was the trial in Warsaw of Rudolf Hoess (not to be confused with Hitler's deputy Hess), one-time

By John Peet

commandant of Auschwitz concentration camp. Hoess too stood neatly to attention when addressing the court, and told the most monstrous tales of his actions in the nazi death camp in a completely matter-of-fact voice.

After the Warsaw trial ended with a death sentence on Hoess, I received permission to interview him.

Locked into the death cell with him, I asked him whether he had any complaints to make about the trial, or the way he had been treated.

"No," he said, "not really. The only thing is that they accused me of gassing four million people while I was in command at Auschwitz. That isn't true. As far as I can work out it was only one and a half million." Please read that sentence again. "Only one and a half million."

It is to make sure that there shall be no more Auschwitz's that the authorities in the German Democratic Republic are taking such stern measures against the agents of a new fascism.

Johann Burianek would probably have made a good job of gassing one and a half million, or four million victims, if he had been given the chance. It is up to all of us, you and me and all of us, to see that he, and people like him, are not given this opportunity.

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

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All material in this paper may be freely reprinted. Voucher copies of reprints appreciated.

Nearly everybody likes to see his name in the papers, and I must say I get a kick out of it, particularly when the mention is in the millionaire press, for I nearly always discover something about myself which I never knew before.

To date my high-point has been when several West Berlin newspapers confined me in a lunatic asylum on January 1951, embellishing the story with fleeing warders, Soviet doctors and all the usual trimmings.

Intelligence?

Now a friend in England has sent me a cutting (unfortunately without date or source) apparently from a recent issue of one of Lord Kemsley's chain of papers. According to this account "Military intelligence officers have been sent to Berlin to investigate a Communist fortnightly news sheet 'Democratic German Report' which is being sent to troops stationed in Germany and trade union leaders in Britain. They have discovered that it is ... being produced by a Briton, John Peet, who went to live in East Berlin in June 1950.

"The investigators have discovered that Frau Zaisser, wife of the chief of secret police, has ordered Peet to write a book portraying 'appalling conditions' in Britain. Peet was summoned to secret police H. Q. and told he would either write the book or be arrested for espionage."

I must congratulate the military intelligence officers on "discovering" that I produce GERMAN REPORT. They must have read the small print at the bottom of this page, which has appeared there from the very first number.

The rest of the story is of course sheer invention. I do not know Frau Zaisser, have never been near "secret police H. Q." and do not know if there is such a place, have no intention of writing a book about Britain or anywhere else, and have not been arrested for espionage.

I shall read Lord Kemsley's papers with redoubled interest in future to see what else has happened to me.

Spare Copies

Looking through our store-room the other day I discovered that we have spare copies of some early issues of GERMAN REPORT. Rather than send them to be repulped we should be glad to send a package to any reader who would distribute them to friends, both in order to keep them informed on Germany and to win new readers.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet, Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone: 42 62 69. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter der Lizenz-Nr. 752 des Amtes für Information der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.